

Charles McCaughtry

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Mr. Paul Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Planning and Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT

Mr. Stacey,

I am a resident of Ashford , Connecticut, a property owner on The Mount Hope River, and a member of the Thames Valley Chapter and Connecticut State Council of Trout Unlimited. I am writing to express my support for the Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations, with some comments.

The proposed regulations need to ensure that a consistent, adequate flow will exist in all of Connecticut' s rivers and streams, providing the needed habitat for healthy ecosystems needed to support all forms of life. Trout Unlimited fought hard in the Legislature to get flow regulations for all our rivers and streams. Healthy water will allow for healthy fish, and all forms

of life. I am pleased to see DEP taking steps to implement this law.

The proposed flow requirements take into account the natural High and low periods present in any given year, and recognize That water releases and diversions must be adjusted for these Naturally occurring cycles. Inclusion of standards for groundwater withdrawal is crucial to the success of your effort and must be retained. Ensuring adequate flows for all bioperiods will have a significant impact on the quality and health of the ecosystem.

The proposed regulations should be strengthened for urban rivers designated as class 4. A class 4 classification will provide virtually no stream flow protection, severely limiting any chance a stream can remain viable.

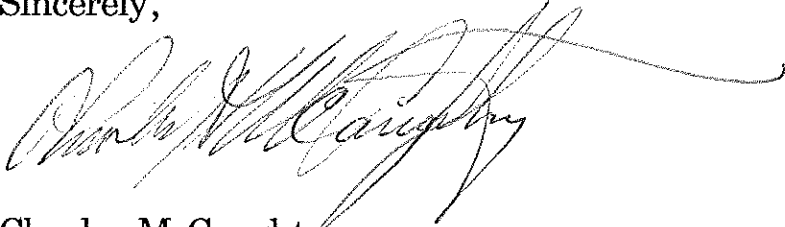
It is essential that ground water withdrawals do not result in excessive flow reductions in nearby streams, or worse , the complete drying of a stream bed, which has happened on the Fenton River near my home.

During dry periods it is possible a stream could be pumped dry. A minimum stream flow should apply to all stream classes, and Diversion and pumping be reduced or stopped during these critical Dry periods.

I know a lot of thought and good science has been applied to the Proposed stream flow standards and regulations. I also see the

protections could be stronger and hope strength prevails in protecting all our waters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles McCaughtry", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles McCaughtry

44 Portland Drive

Ashford, CT. 06278

Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited